circulation among various stakeholders including State Governments, to elicit their views for eliminating arbitrariness and malpratices in professional educational institutions. A committee of experts has been set up in regard to all issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India.

**School drop outs**

2658. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether statistics of a nationwide survey conducted in June and August, 2004 and presented to the Planning Commission by an organization working on elementary education has pointed out that 19 per cent of girls drop out of schools by age of 14 and an average 25 per cent of all school children cannot write a dictated sentence by that age;

(b) if so, whether according to the findings about 29 per cent boys and 33 per cent girls were out of schools in age group of 11 and 14;

(c) if so, what are the other points mentioned in the report; and

(d) to what extent Government have considered the survey report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per information received from Planning Commission, an organization working in elementary education had made a presentation to it regarding a sample survey on "Rapid Assessment of Learning Outcomes" conducted by it in June-August, 2004, covering 17 States and about 13,500 children. The survey results based on preliminary analysis showed; *inter-alia*, that:—

(i) 25% of children of 11-14 years age group in Government schools, and 14% in private schools, were unable to write a dictated sentence, and

(ii) 8% of the boys and 18% of girls in the age group 11-14 years were out of school.

(c) The report indicated that the "Learning to Read" programme introduced by the organization resulted in significantly enhanced reading levels among children, particularly in remote, tribal and backward areas.

(d) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme aims to address the concerns

raised in the report through various measures aimed at improving enrolment, retention and learning.

**Women Trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh**

2659. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that women trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh is on the increase; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government is aware of the existence of the problem of women trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh through India.

(b) Trafficking of Women in one of the agents items in various institutional mechanisms between India and Nepal to deal with cross-border security related issues. These include Joint Working Group on Border Management, Interpol Officers, Meetings and Border District Co-ordination Committees involving District Magistrates/Chief Development Officers and other officials of districts on both sides of the Indo-Nepal border.

The issue of trafficking of women and children has been discussed with Bangladesh in the DG level BSF-BDR talks in 2004 and also during the Home Secretary level talks held between India and Bangladesh.

The Government of India has signed and ratified SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prosititution.

**Take Home Ration Policy**

2660. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement "Take Home Ration" policy throughout the country;

(b) the projects implemented so far under this policy, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study of impact on the nutrition levels of children as a result thereof; and